

With updates from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture

# The Harvest TIMES



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**Agriculture Director  
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## 2005 Indiana State Fair a big success for new department

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture made its debut appearance at the 149th annual Indiana State Fair from August 10 through 21.

The first event for the Department was the Pathways to Water Quality media tour on Monday, August 8. During this event, ISDA staff, NRCS and IDEM officials took a tour of the Pathway to Water Quality exhibit including the pervious concrete display, which serves as a stormwater measure. The Department also hosted a news conference on Thursday, August 11 and an event for each of the seven strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan titled *Possibilities Unbound: The Plan for 2025*.

Strategic Plan events included:

- **Bioenergy** - Lt. Governor Becky Skillman helped give away nearly 300 gallons of ethanol-blended fuel during the World's Largest Drive-Thru breakfast.
- **Hardwoods** - ISDA hosted an educational hardwoods display and chainsaw art demonstration in Pioneer Village.
- **Diversity of Production** - Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and ISDA showcased three of Indiana's

## USDA CREP Signing

This summer Indiana signed a historic conservation agreement allowing more than 7,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land to receive funding for conservation improvements.

The plan was made possible through a federal, state and private partnership and is called the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

It will provide landowners with a funding package for conserving and enhancing natural resources in Indiana. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Conner joined Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and Agriculture Director Andy Miller at Hession Farms in Brownsburg for a signing ceremony on July 8.

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## Indiana State Fair



Agriculture Director Andy Miller presented a Quarter Horse yearling to Mary Forster of Bartholomew County, the winner of the Indiana Quarter Horse Association 4-H Horse Award on August 11. The yearling, Winter Step, was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Duane McDavitt of Westfield.

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most diverse producers, Dana Huber, Huber Orchard and Winery; Abby Dougherty, Dougherty Farm Fresh Freezer Beef and Mary and Kate Yegerlehner, Swiss Connection during the Old-Fashioned Pancake Breakfast.

- **Pork** - ISDA and Indiana Pork Producer staff handed out 1,000 coupons redeemable for 50 cents off Indiana Kitchen Bacon at any Marsh Supermarket.
- **Food Processing** - ISDA supported the Heartland Walk for Health event by providing healthy snacks to participants in the walk.
- **Federal Farm and Trade Policy** - ISDA worked with USDA to host the ninth USDA Farm Bill Listening Session at the Indiana State Fair.
- **Regulatory Coordination** - Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and ISDA hosted an ice cream social to kick off the pilot county and regional teams.

Even though the State Fair has come to a close, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and ISDA are already planning for the 150th State Fair celebration in 2006.



**Free ethanol event attracts hundreds**



(From back left to front) Rob Swain, ISDA; Tim Martin, DNR; Charles Michler, Purdue University; Jim McKenna, Purdue University; and Bob Hawkins, Vallonia State Nursery pose for a picture following the chainsaw art demonstration by Etienne's Logging Company during the Hardwoods event on August 16.

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## Indiana State Fair



During the Old Fashioned Pancake Breakfast hosted by Indiana Farm Bureau on August 17, ISDA featured the Diversity of Production strategy.

The goal of this strategy is to lead the nation in identifying diversification strategies that enhance the economic viability of producers of different sizes and areas of production.

Three diversified producers were featured during the breakfast. Pictured from left to right are: Ryan West, ISDA; Abby Dougherty; Kate Yegerlehner; Mary Yegerlehner; Dana Huber and Agriculture Director Andy Miller.



Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture gave away nearly 300 gallons of ethanol-blended fuel during the World's Largest Drive-Thru breakfast at the Indiana State Fair. Together, the Indiana State Fair, Lt. Governor Skillman and ISDA showed their commitment to biofuels.

During the breakfast Skillman and ISDA staff pumped one gallon of E-10 blend fuel (10 percent ethanol, 90 percent gasoline) into almost every vehicle that came thru the breakfast. The Indiana Beef Cattle Association breakfast and biofuels event took place on August 12 from 6 to 8 a.m.

Lt. Governor Skillman and ISDA are promoting ethanol for its efficiency and its environmental benefit. "This Administration is committed to renewable energy," said Lt. Governor Skillman. "From ethanol to soybiodiesel to the next generation of renewable energy, we want to maximize Indiana's competitive advantage in agriculturally derived energy."

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## State Fair Hosts USDA Farm Bill Forum



On August 18 the Indiana State Fair hosted the 9th USDA Farm Bill Listening Session with Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Chuck Conner, a native to the state of Indiana.

The forum attracted over 200 agriculturalists from Indiana as well as several other states.

In a news conference just before the start of the Farm Bill Forum, Conner also announced the approval of \$34.6 million in USDA Rural Development funds to support the development and expansion of rural telecommunication technologies in targeted rural areas in the states of Indiana, Alabama, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire and Virginia. The funding will bring first-time telephone service to remote areas of Michigan, and for the first time, USDA will finance broadband infrastructure using electric power lines.

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Then to kick off the Farm Bill Forum event Conner provided a brief description of the 2007 USDA Farm Bill.

According to Conner, the 2002 Farm Bill authorizes many Federal programs, including farm price and income support programs. Conner says that new legislation must be enacted prior to its expiration in 2007 to ensure continuity of these important programs.

"The 2007 Farm Bill will affect America's entire agricultural community, so I believe our entire agricultural community should have a say in the process," said Conner. "I welcome any input about what is working and what we can do to improve farm policy."

Conner and Lt. Governor Skillman listened to three hours of comments ranging from the young farmer program, conservation, rural development and the country's ability to compete in global markets. The biggest cheer of the session came when Conner voiced strong support for ethanol and renewable fuels.

"I would much rather get my fuel from Indiana fields than from oil fields in the Middle East," Conner said.

Conner said that writing the next Farm Bill will be a challenge because there will be no new resources from which to draw. The Secretary also indicated that the new farm bill will be leaner and greener than the 2002 bill.

<http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>

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**Plans for the  
future**



Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and Agriculture Director Andy Miller discussed the progress made toward the seven strategies outlined in *Possibilities Unbound: The Plan for 2025* during a news conference on August 11 at the Indiana State Fair.

Even though the Strategic Plan was released just three months ago, ISDA can point to several early wins. During the news conference, Skillman and Miller discussed some of these wins and next steps involving each of the seven strategies including: Hardwoods, Bioenergy, Regulatory Coordination, Pork, Diversity of Production, Food Processing and Federal Farm and Trade Policy. Miller also provided a brief update from the Indiana Grain Buyers and Warehousing Licensing Agency as well as the Division of Soil Conservation.

Some of the accomplishments unveiled during the news conference include: for the Hardwoods strategy, ISDA pledged \$50,000 from the Value Added Research Fund for further development of log scanning technology at Purdue University; for Bioenergy, the Indiana General Assembly passed the Clean Fuels Bill providing \$20 million in tax credits for the expansion of ethanol and biodiesel production; for Regulatory Coordination, the creation of the Agricultural Regulatory Council, a group that will improve agency communication and enhance the State's role of assisting and building the agricultural industry; for Pork, the creation of an odor task force to take a closer look at the key drivers and need for odor reduction; for Diversity of Production, formation of two diversification task forces that will define the "faces of Indiana agriculture" and will use the data for platform development; for Food Processing, ISDA earmarked \$500,000 from ISDA's Value Added Research Fund to help establish the first Indiana Food and Agriculture fund to advance food and agricultural businesses in the state and for Federal Farm and Trade Policy, the state hosted a Farm Bill Forum during the Indiana State Fair.

<http://www.in.gov/isda>

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The Indiana State Department of Agriculture was created in April of 2005 to advance our state's food and agriculture system. ISDA has two main goals: to make agriculture a key part of the state's economic comeback and to establish Indiana as a leader in the global agricultural economy. Our vision is for Indiana to be a global center for food and agriculture innovation and commercialization.

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman | Indiana State Department of Agriculture